

Application no. 09/992,941
Amdt. Dated June 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 5, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-38 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected claims 27-30 under 35 USC §112 ¶1 as failing to comply with the written description. The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.83(a) in combination with MPEP §608.02(d) for failing to disclose structural detail essential to a proper understanding of the disclosed invention. The Examiner has allowed claims 21-26 and 31-38. With this response, the applicant amends claim 27.

A. Rejections Under 35 USC §112 ¶1

The Examiner has rejected claims 27-30 under 35 USC §112 ¶1 as failing to comply with the written description. Page 9, lines 11-13, of the present application discloses:

“The probe 171 could include a separate optical fiber for re-acquiring the reflected beam 174, in which case, coupler 166 can be eliminated.”

Accordingly, the Applicant has amended claim 27 as follows:

“An autocorrelator apparatus comprising:

- a broadband light source;
- a first single mode optical fiber adapted to optically connect the broadband light source to a first fiber light probe wherein the first fiber light probe is adapted to emit a first broadband light beam;
- a second single mode optical fiber adapted to optically connect ~~a second~~ the first fiber light probe to a single mode fiber coupler wherein ~~the second fiber light probe~~ the second single mode optical fiber is adapted to receive a second broadband light beam at the first fiber light probe;
- a third single mode optical fiber having a path length, the third single mode optical fiber adapted to optically connect the single mode fiber

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coupler to a first Faraday rotator mirror wherein the third single mode optical fiber is wound onto a first piezoelectric fiber stretcher for varying the optical path length of the third single mode optical fiber; a fourth single mode optical fiber having a path length substantially equal to the path length of the third single mode optical fiber, the fourth single mode optical fiber adapted to optically connect the single mode fiber coupler to a second Faraday rotator mirror; and a fifth single mode optical fiber adapted to optically connect the single mode fiber coupler to a receiver having processing electronics wherein the second broadband light received by ~~said second fiber light probe~~ the second single mode optical fiber at the first fiber light probe and a signal representative of the variation in broadband light path length of said third optical fiber as interfered with broadband light from the fourth optical fiber are processed to produce therefrom indications of a displacement of reflections of the first broadband light beam emitted from said first fiber light probe."

The Applicant respectfully asserts the above amendment to claims 27 finds full support in the application. Claims 28-30 provide clarification or limitation to independent claim 27 and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, claims 27-30 are in condition of allowance.

B. Objections to Drawings Under 37 CFR §1.83(a)

The support for claim 27 is found in Figure 3 of the application where "[t]he probe 171 could include a separate optical fiber for re-acquiring the reflected beam 174, in which case, coupler 166 can be eliminated." (See page 9, lines 11-13.) The Applicant respectfully asserts that those skilled in the art understand the statement to describe the fibers 154 and 161 of the drawing to be contiguous or be the same fiber in the invention as claimed in claim 27 and the fiber 162 and the separate fiber to be contiguous or be the same fiber in the invention as claimed in claim 27. Accordingly, with the current amendment to claim 27, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application discloses structural detail essential to a proper understanding of the disclosed invention and Examiner is requested to remove his objection under 37 CFR §1.83(a). In the alternative,

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the Applicant requests the Examiner telephone the practitioner below to facilitate a speedy resolution to the drawing objection.

C. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, consideration and favorable action on claims 27-30 are respectfully requested. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-38 are in condition for allowance and the Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should any question remain in view of his communication, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Should there be any additional fees for this action, your office is authorized to draw from the firm deposit account number 02-3979. Should any question remain in view of this communication, I would appreciate a telephone call so that this matter may be resolved promptly.

Respectfully submitted,
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